

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

1. to 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus for recording captured images, the imaging apparatus comprising:

a connector component that connects an image storage component, that stores a plurality of image data, to the imaging apparatus in a removable condition;

a retrieve condition storage component that stores retrieve condition data, such as a key image or a keyword, for use as a retrieve condition when performing image retrieval;

a retrieval component that retrieves a retrieval result by searching for image data that matches or is similar to the retrieve condition data from among the plurality of image data stored in the image storage component connected to the connector component; [[and]]

an internal storage component that stores the retrieval result retrieved by the retrieval component; and

a determination component that determines whether image data stored in another image storage component connected to the connector component, instead of the image storage component, has been retrieved by said retrieval component,

wherein ~~even in a case where the image storage component is detached from the connector component and is replaced with another image storage component, the~~

retrieval component further retrieves a retrieval result from among a plurality of image data stored in said another image storage component using the common retrieve condition data which has been used with respect to the image storage component in a case where the determination component determines that image data stored in said another image storage component has not been retrieved, and the retrieval component does not again perform retrieval of a retrieval result on said another image storage component in a case where the determination component determines that image data stored in said another image storage component has been retrieved, and

wherein the internal storage component accumulatively stores the retrieval results retrieved by the retrieval component until there is an explicit delete instruction.

14. to 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a power deactivation switch that instructs that the power of the imaging apparatus be deactivated;

a non-volatile storage component for saving the retrieve condition data when there is an instruction to deactivate the power from the power deactivation switch; and

a read/write control component that, when the power to the imaging apparatus is reactivated, reads the retrieve condition data from the non-volatile storage component to write the retrieve condition data in the retrieve condition storage component.

17. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a non-volatile storage component;

a selection component that selects whether or not to store the retrieve condition data on the non-volatile storage component when the image retrieval processing ends; and

a write control component that writes the retrieve condition data on the non-volatile storage component when a selection is made to store the retrieve condition data on the non-volatile storage component.

18. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 13 further comprising:

a flag control component that sets a flag showing that retrieval is in progress at the start of image retrieval processing by the retrieval component and resets the flag at the end of the image retrieval processing;

a flag determination component that determines whether the flag is set when the power of the imaging apparatus is activated;

a first message display component that, when the flag had been set, displays a message to inquire whether or not to continue the image retrieval processing;

a first input component that inputs an instruction as to whether or not to continue the image retrieval processing; and

a first continuation instruction component that, in a case where an instruction to continue the image retrieval processing is input, instructs the retrieval component to continue the image retrieval processing.

19. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 13 , further comprising:

a second message display component that, when an instruction is given to execute the image retrieval processing, displays a message to inquire whether or not to change the retrieve condition data;

a second input component that inputs an instruction to change the retrieve condition data; and

a change component that changes the retrieve condition data when an instruction is input to change the retrieve condition data.

20. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a third message display component that, when the image retrieval processing ends for an arbitrary image storage component, displays a message to inquire whether or not to replace the image storage component with a different image storage component and continue the image retrieval processing;

a third input component that inputs an instruction as to whether or not to continue the image retrieval processing; and

a second continuation instruction component that, when an instruction to continue the image retrieval processing is input and the different image storage component is connected to the connector component, instructs the retrieval component to continue the image retrieval processing.

21. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 13 , further comprising:

a writing component that, when the image retrieval processing based on the retrieve condition data ends, writes completion information indicating the completion of the image retrieval processing based on the retrieve condition data onto the image storage component that is connected to the connector component;

a detection component that detects that the image storage component on which the completion information is stored is connected to the connector component; and

a fourth message display component that, when the connection is detected by the detection component, displays a message indicating that the image retrieval processing for the retrieve condition data has been completed.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an imaging apparatus that records captured images, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting an image storage component, that stores a plurality of image data, to the imaging apparatus in a removable condition;

reading, from a retrieve condition storage component of the imaging apparatus, retrieve condition data, such as a key image or a keyword, for use as a retrieve condition when performing image retrieval;

retrieving a retrieval result by searching for image data that matches or is similar to the retrieve condition data from among the plurality of image data stored in the image storage component; and

storing inside the retrieval result in an internal storage component of the imaging apparatus; and

determining whether image data stored in another image storage component connected to the imaging apparatus, instead of the image storage component, has been retrieved,

wherein the step of retrieving the retrieval result further comprises the step of, even in a case where the image storage component is detached from the imaging apparatus and is replaced with a different image storage component, further retrieving a retrieval result from among a plurality of image data stored in the different said another image storage component using the common retrieve condition data which has been used with respect to the image storage component in a case where it is determined that image data stored in said another image storage component has not been retrieved, and the retrieval component does not again perform retrieval of a retrieval result on said another image storage component in a case where it is determined that image data stored in said another image storage component has been retrieved, and

wherein retrieved retrieval results are accumulatively stored in the internal storage component until there is an explicit delete instruction.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-executable computer program that causes a computer equipped with an image storage component that stores a plurality of image data and is connected to the computer in a removable condition, a retrieve condition storage component that stores retrieve condition data such as a key image or a keyword for use as a retrieve condition when performing image retrieval, and an internal storage component that stores a retrieval result, to execute a method comprising the steps of:

reading, from the retrieve condition storage component, retrieve condition data such as a key image or a keyword for use as a retrieve condition;

retrieving a retrieval result by searching for image data that matches or is similar to the retrieve condition data from among the plurality of image data stored in the image storage component; and

storing the retrieval result in the internal storage component of the computer; and

determining whether image data stored in another image storage component connected to the imaging apparatus, instead of the image storage component, has been retrieved.

wherein the step of retrieving a retrieval result further comprises ~~comprising~~ the step of; ~~even in a case where the image storage component is detached from the computer and is replaced with a different image storage component; further retrieving a retrieval result from among a plurality of image data stored in the different~~ said another image storage component using the common retrieve condition data which has been used with respect to the image storage component in a case where it is determined that image

data stored in said another image storage component has not been retrieved, and the retrieval of a retrieval result is not again performed on said another image storage component in a case where it is determined that image data stored in said another image storage component has been retrieved, and

wherein retrieved retrieval results are accumulatively stored in the internal storage component until there is an explicit delete instruction.

24. to 30. (Cancelled)